



AUGUST 06 INTERPRETIVE CALENDAR

PURGATORY CHASM STATE RESERVATION

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Hiking Naturally 4-5:30	4 Forest & Parks on Wheels 1-4 History Time 4-5	5 s Jr. Rangers 1-3 Chasm Tour 4-5
6 Rock Detectives 1-2 Chasm Tour 4-5	7	8	9	10 Hiking Naturally 4-5:30	11 Scavenger Hunt 4-5	12 Jr. Rangers 1-3 Chasm Tour 4-5
13 Basic Birding 1-2 Chasm Tour 4-5	14	15	16	17 Hiking Naturally 4-5:30	18 Forests & Parks on Wheels 1-4 History Time 4-5	19 Jr. Rangers 1-3 Chasm Tour 4-5
20 Mushroom Hike 10:30 Rock Detectives 1-2 Chasm Tour 4-5	21	22	23	24 Hiking Naturally 4-5:30	25 Scavenger Hunt 4-5	26 Jr. Rangers 1-3 Chasm Tour 4-5
27 Basic Birding 1-2 Chasm Tour 4-5	28	29	30	31 Hiking Naturally 4-5:30		

Park Interpreter: Nicole

Park Phone Number: 508-234-3733



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Description of Programs & Events:

Chasm Tour

Discover the mysteries of Purgatory Chasm. How was it formed? How did places such as “Lover’s Leap” and “Devil’s Pulpit” get their names? The interpreter will take visitors on a hike through the chasm while discussing the history, ecology, geology, and wildlife of this unique formation. The tour is suitable for families and anyone who is physically able to withstand a fairly strenuous hike.

History Time

Meet at the pavilion to talk about the history of Purgatory Chasm and the surrounding area. Unique photos and insight will be shared. Find out how the hurricane of 1938 forever changed the chasm and surrounding forest. Learn about the people who made sure the chasm would be here for future generations to see. Discover how South Northbridge became Whitinsville and how the Whittin family left their mark on central Massachusetts. The tour is suitable for anyone interested in history and the chasm. This will be a sit down activity at the pavilion so it will be especially accessible for those who would have difficulty with a strenuous hike.

Hiking Naturally

Hike through the chasm and surrounding woods in the park while learning how to be good stewards of the land, identify different types of plants, trees, animals, and more. Find out why so many of the boulder formations look like “hamburgers on a bun”. Each week will have a different theme suitable for families such as “ABC Hike”, “Natural/Unnatural Hike”, and “Sensory Hike”. The hike is suitable for individuals, families, and anyone able to withstand a hike of moderate difficulty.

Scavenger Hunt

Participants will meet the interpreter at the pavilion and discuss and see picture examples of the essential geology and ecology of Purgatory Chasm before having a chance to find the examples in the “wild” on their own. Participants will sketch examples from their list when discovered. The importance of leaving rocks, leaves, etc. alone in a state reservation will be emphasized. The activity is appropriate for families, children with parents, older adults, individuals with disabilities, and others.

Rock Detectives

We will meet at the pavilion and look at examples of different rocks found at Purgatory Chasm. The group will then go on a hike looking for examples discussed earlier. Individuals will be challenged to identify basic rock types. The different theories of how the



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chasm was formed will also be discussed as we look for evidence of glacial erosion, glacial erratics, and more in the chasm. The activity is appropriate for families and all ages. Participants should be able to take part in a fairly strenuous hike through the chasm.

Basic Birding

We will find out about the birds that inhabit Purgatory Chasm and their habits. For instance, the phoebe likes to build its nest in ledges where there is a roof for the nest. We will learn how to identify a few basic birds that make the chasm their home. Then we will head out with binoculars and attempt to see these birds in their natural habitat. We will also discuss and hear examples of bird calls and songs so we might be able to identify a bird by its call. The activity is appropriate for families, older adults, individuals with disabilities, and anyone who is interested in birds.

Special Events:

August 4th Forest and Parks on Wheels

The Department of Conservation's "Forests and Parks on Wheels" van and staff will lead environmental education games. For example, participants playing "Forest Bingo" take part in field trip game which allows them to mark off squares on their card as they identify different things in the forest. The games are hands on, interactive, and engaging. Participants will learn about bio-diversity, forest ecology, watersheds, and wetlands. These activities are appropriate for kindergarten through 6th graders and their parents. Parents must accompany children.

August 5th and 12th Junior Rangers

Junior Rangers on will be for youth 6-8 years-old and will center around the theme "Land Stewards". Youth will take part in such activities as "Tredding Lightly", "Ethi-Thinking", "Look and See", and "First Impression". The activities will be designed to peak their curiosity in the natural environment while helping them learn to be responsible stewards of the land. The remainder of the month Junior Rangers will be for youth ages 9-12 and will also center around the theme "Land Stewards". Youth will participate in such activities as "Rare Bird Egges for Sale", "Pay to Play", "Here Today, Gone Tomorrow", "Tracks!", and "My Kingdom for a Shelter". The activities will be designed to peak their curiosity in the natural environment while helping them learn to be responsible stewards of the land.

August 18th Forest and Parks on Wheels



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The Department of Conservation's "Forests and Parks on Wheels" van and staff will lead environmental education games. For example, participants playing "Oh Deer!" will take part in a physical activity introducing them to the limitations of habitat and species survival. The games are hands on, interactive, and engaging. Participants will learn about bio-diversity, forest ecology, watersheds, and wetlands. These activities are appropriate for 3rd through 6th graders and their parents. Parents must accompany children.

August 20th Mushroom Hike with the Boston Mycological Society

Join the oldest existing mushroom club in the United States on a field trip in the park! For both practical (edible!) and aesthetic purposes newcomers will be amazed at what they'll discover in the fascinating world of fungi. Please bring a paper bag and a small digging implement. Arrive a little early and meet at the Chasm pavilion. Appropriate for all ages and abilities.